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in cases where indeterminate sentences have been imposed, and retrospectively in cases where sentence was passed in similar cases before the indeterminate sentence was instituted.

The board cannot parole a prisoner whose sentence is determined by law, and he holds, therefore, that life terms cannot be paroled.

In cases where the sentence is indeterminate, Judge Coco holds the board is not compelled to grant the parole, but should use its discretion—broadly speaking, it should judge between the applicant and society. In granting or refusing parole it should look into the conscience of the prisoner as well as the physical parts of the case, and consider the elements surrounding the crime to judge of the character of the prisoner. If the crime was attended with atrocity, the board has the right to consider that as bearing on the character of the prisoner, and as counterbalancing his good conduct while under restraint.—*The Times-Picayune*, Jan. 14.

POLICE.

New York Police Records.—Police Commissioner Woods has revised the entire system of police records in use in New York City. Arrests, accidents and complaints are now recorded by patrolmen on the street on loose leaf pocket memorandum forms which have been specially prepared in such a manner as to enable the patrolmen to check the pertinent data of each case with a minimum amount of writing. Formerly the patrolmen wrote these reports on scraps of paper or in their personal memorandum books.

In the station house the data of arrests, accidents and complaints are transferred to cards under the direction of the desk lieutenant instead of reports compiled from the books, are sent to headquarters. Each precinct sends its cards to the district inspector daily and the reports and returns from each district office are collected by a mail messenger in an automobile.

At police headquarters these cards of which an average of 2,000 are received daily, are transferred to punched Hollereth tabulating cards, under the direction of Mills E. Case, Secretary of the Department, who is statistician of wide experience.

By means of this system all police activities are so recorded and classified with a minimum of clerical labor that the department has a complete record of every case available at any time and is able to study different police problems by means of these Hollereth cards.

LEONHARD FELIX FULD, *New York City*.

Finger-Print Evidence.—Novelists have made us familiar with the bloody print of a finger tip that is found near the scene of crime and leads to the apprehension of the criminal; and to-day no detective who carries "coke" in his left arm is necessary in a case where so substantial a clue is found as an impress of the lineations of the guilty person's thumb. Moreover, Bertillon has taught the police the reliability of finger prints as a part of a system of identification far superior to the ordinary photograph. We are informed by a correspondent of the *New York World* (Aaron M. Blattman, city finger-print expert, in a letter published December 8, 1916) that identification by means of finger prints originated with the Chinese 2,000 years before Christ, and that as to the possibilities of two finger prints being exactly alike, Balthazard, a French expert, calculated that the chances are less than one for every one